

## • Critical Access Hospitals (27)

Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are certified under a set of Medicare Conditions of Participation structured differently than an acute care hospital. Requirements for CAH certification include:

- Having no more than 25 inpatient beds,
- Maintaining an annual average length of stay not exceeding 96 hours for acute inpatient care,
- 24-hour, 7-day-a-week emergency care,
- Being located in a rural area 35 miles from the nearest hospital or CAH, -OR- more than 15 miles from any other hospital or CAH in an area with mountainous terrain or only secondary roads, -OR- designated as a necessary provider prior to January 1, 2006.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration

